

nearly produced a revolution in governmental affairs was Frederick O'Brien's satire on "Why the Fly Climbs up the Window Pane." The news service, including provincial reports, is reliable, and the make-up of the daily and weekly papers is excellent.

One reason for the lack of more freedom of expression was the existence of repressive measures under Spanish rule. Freedom of speech and of the press was one of the fundamental reforms insisted upon by the leading minds of the Filipino people, and was one of the prime causes of the revolts against Spain. The Malolos Constitution drafted by the Revolutionary Congress was careful to safeguard this sacred right. Beginning with the President's Instructions to the Philippine Commission, the guaranty of freedom of speech and the press as known in Anglo-Saxon countries was made effective in the Philippines. It was one of the richest gifts of the American people to the Filipino people.

Notwithstanding the constitutional guaranty, the Philippines has a strict libel law. Prosecutions to vindicate name and honor have been frequent. Scandals have been aired in court, and names have either been vindicated or further besmirched. The tendency of the courts in the interpretation and enforcement of the libel law has been to adopt a tolerant and reasonable attitude and to deal lightly with offenses which come under that law, in order to permit of the inculcation of freedom of speech and of the press.

One way by which public opinion is formed in the Philippines is not by the written word but by the spoken word. The Filipino politicians are fluent and eloquent speakers. They find large and appreciative audiences ready to

listen to them
even in the remotest *barrios*. What is said at
these meetings
then passes on from mouth to mouth and is
further discussed
at gatherings of the elders in the vicinity. It is
believed that
the importance of this method of making public
opinion has